(c) whether Government have received any suggestions regarding royalty etc. in the New Mining Policy from political parties and other organisations of various States;

(d) if so, the detials thereof; and

(e) the details of the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) National Mineral Policy, 2007 is under consideration of the Government.

(c) to (e) Government have received suggestions from different Governments and organisations on vairous parameters having bearing on mineral policy. The National Mineral Policy, 2007 being framed after deliberation on the suggestions is under consideration of the Government.

Proposal for Arctic expedition

*96. SHRI DEV DAS APTE: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning for the Arctic expedition to research on the climate change with other team;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total budget allocation for this purpose;

(d) the key areas on which this expedition will concentrate; and

(e) by when India would be able to send its first Arctic expedition on its own?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Minsitry of Earth Sciences through National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), Goa, an autonomous institute under this Ministry has proposed a research programme for the Arctic region during the Eleventh Five Year Plan starting in 2007, coinciding with International Polar Year (IPY). This is being worked out in collaboraiton with Norwegian Polar Research Institute, for Indian Scientists to carry out research in Svalbard region, where an internaitonal research facility exists in Ny-Alesund. Ministry of Earth Sciences has proposed a new research scheme 'Expedition to Arctic' during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, for which a token amount of Rs. 1.00 crore has been provided for the next financial year.

(d) The scientific research is proposed in the field of Atmospheric Sciences, Space Weather, Glaciology including Sea Ice and Marine Sciences.

(e) It is proposed to send the first team of Indian Scientists to Arctic region this year.

Mini Anganwadi Centres

*97. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Mini Anganwadi Centres in the country;

(b) what are the services provided through these Mini Anganwadi Centres; and

(c) whether the workers of these Mini Anganwadi Centres are being paid the same remuneration as the other Anganwadi workers and helpers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As on date, the total number of sanctioned Mini-anganwadi centres in the country is 36829.

(b) Earlier, only supplementary nutrition was being provided under the ICDS Scheme from the Mini-anganwadi centres. However, a decision has been taken recently to provide all the services under the scheme through Mini-anganwadi centres also.

(c) Presently, the Mini-Anganwadi Worker is being paid an honorarium of Rs. 500/- per month while the Anganwadi Worker is being paid Rs. 1000/- per month.

Committee constituted to check ragging

†*98. SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the direction of Supreme Court, Government have

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.